

LEAN TRAINING CONTRIBUTES TO SAVINGS IMPACT

ABOUT DIAMONDBACK AUTOMOTIVE ACC INC. Diamondback Automotive Accessories started as a project in an engineering class at Penn State University and initially operated out of a garage. President and CEO Ethan Wendle, along with co-founder Matt Chverchko, started the company in 2003 to manufacture and sell quality truck bed covers, loading ramps, and accessories. Now, the Philipsburg, Pennsylvania-based company grosses more than \$6 million annually and has 23 employees. The real distinction of Diamondback's truck covers is that they are not just "high quality," but also load bearing. A driver can haul up to 1,600 pounds on top of the cover, leaving a securable truck bed space underneath for additional storage and hauling.

THE CHALLENGE. In an effort to reduce waste within the facility and maximize productivity, company leaders invited the Innovative Manufacturers Center (IMC), a NIST MEP affiliate, to train Diamondback employees in Lean Manufacturing and Continuous Improvement concepts.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. IMC provided a total of 64 hours of Lean Manufacturing and Continuous Improvement training to DiamondBack employees. The sessions included A3 Thinking, Value Stream Mapping, Effective Communication, Root Cause Analysis and Standard Work. In addition, experts from IMC covered the concepts of Change Management, Visual Workplace, Total Predictive Maintenance, Working in Teams, Single Minute Exchange of Die System, and the Principles of Kata. DiamondBack employees are now capable of applying Lean Manufacturing and Continuous Improvement concepts to problems in the manufacturing facility, improving productivity. Investments in plant and equipment and workforce practices are contributing to cost-savings, and the company is retaining jobs and uncovering new opportunities for growth.

"The employees that have participated in the IMC Lean Certification program were very pleased with the education received and have been able to use their skills to improve our company. I look forward to sending additional employees as we move down our path of Lean."

-Patrick Hanlon, Operations Manager

RESULTS



Savings impact of **\$10,000**



Retained **2** jobs



Invested **\$15,000** in plant and equipment, \$2,000 in workforce practices



Provided **64** hours of training for DiamondBack employees



New P&P of **\$10,000**

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